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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/238,163	01/28/1999	HIROSHI SUMIYAMA	032567-002	6659

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EXAMINER

QIN, YIXING

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2625

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	01/25/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/238,163	Applicant(s) SUMIYAMA ET AL.	
	Examiner Yixing Qin	Art Unit 2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10/31/06.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4 and 6-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 19 and 23 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4,6-12,14-18 and 20-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 13 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 28 January 1999 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 10/31/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The main argument is that the Kawabuchi reference does not disclose an output control unit for causing the output unit to output image data newly input from the image input unit after the discarding of image data from the first memory under the maintained image forming conditions. In column 3, line 61 - column 4, line 5, Kawabuchi explains that there are various keys for setting the number of copies, magnification, etc. and a clear key 93 that resets the values to a standard or default value. The set number of copies or magnification would be the image forming conditions and they would not be reset merely upon the discarding of the image data, but one the pushing of the clear key 93. For example, the magnification is currently set at equal scale in Fig. 2, and upon the discarding of the image data from the first memory, this magnification would still be set at equal scale, thus maintaining the image forming condition. The rejection is maintained.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 19 and 23 are allowed.

Claim 13 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Regarding claims 13 and 19, in the examiner's opinion, it would not have been obvious at the time of the invention to have the apparatus, as claimed, include the features of print control unit that gives priority to a new job for printing under the maintained forming conditions over the rest of the jobs on a waiting list.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

I. Claims 1, 4, 6-12, 14-18, and 20-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kawabuchi et al. (U.S. Patent Number 5,740,496, cited in the Office action dated 2/10/06).

Regarding claim 1, Kawabuchi discloses an image forming apparatus (see abstract, and Fig. 1) comprising : a first memory for storing image data (memory unit 30, column 4, lines 37- 45); an image input unit for inputting the image data to the first memory (column 2, line 55- column 3, line 49); a second memory for storing image forming conditions (being the management table MTI stored in the RAM 126, column 4,

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line 37-column 5, line 7), the image forming conditions being at least one of number of copies, and magnification (column 3, line 55- column 4, line 4, and column 4, line 37-column 5, line 7);

an image output unit for printing the image stored in the first memory under the image forming conditions stored in the second memory (column 6, lines 23-40);

a command unit for generating a command of discarding the image data being printed by the image output unit (see abstract, and column 8, line 49-column 9, line 16);
an image data discarding controller for discarding the image data stored in the first memory when the command of discarding the image data is generated by the command unit (see abstract, and column 8, line 49-column 9, line 16), while maintaining the associated image forming conditions stored in the second memory (column 9, line 17-column 10, line 29); a job stopping controller for stopping a print operation of a job being printed by the image output unit (see abstract, and column 8, line 49-column 9, line 16),
and

an output control unit for causing the output unit to output image data newly input from the image input unit after the discarding of image data from the first memory under the maintained image forming conditions (column 3, line 50-column 4, line 22, and column 9, line 17-column 10, line 29, especially column 3, line 61 - column 4, line 5,);
wherein the command unit generates a command of discarding the image data of the job stopped by the job stopping controller (see abstract, and column 8, line 49-column 9, line 16), and wherein the image data discarding controller discards the image data of the job stopped by the job stopping controller and maintains the image forming

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conditions of the job (see abstract, column 3, line 61 - column 4, line 5, and column 8, line 49- column 9, line 16).

Regarding claim 4, Kawabuchi discloses the image forming apparatus discussed above in claim 1, and further teaches of means for changing the maintained image forming conditions (column 3, line 55-column 5, line 7).

Regarding claim 6, Kawabuchi discloses the image forming apparatus discussed above in claim 1, and further teaches that the image input unit is an image reader for reading the image from the original and acquiring the image data, wherein the image output unit and the image reader operate independently (column 2, line 55-column 3, line 60).

Regarding claim 7, Kawabuchi discloses the image forming apparatus discussed above in claim 6, and further teaches that when the image reader is reading another original, the command unit generates a command of suspending the reading operation, and at the same time, it generates a command of discarding the image data to be printed (see abstract, and Fig. 23, column 9, line 4-column 10, line 29).

Regarding claim 8, Kawabuchi discloses the image forming apparatus discussed above in claim 6, and further teaches that when the image reader is

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reading another original, the command unit generates a command of discarding the image data to be printed after the reading operation for another original has been completed (column 3, line 50-column 4, line 67, and column 8, line 57-column 9, line 16).

Regarding claim 9, Kawabuchi discloses the image forming apparatus discussed above in claim 1, and further teaches that the image output unit is a printer for printing an image on a paper based on the image data (column 2, line 55-column 3, line 60).

Regarding claim 10, Kawabuchi discloses an image forming apparatus (see abstract, and Fig. 1) comprising:

- an image for reading an original and acquiring image data of the original (column 2, line 55-column 3, line 49);

- an image memory for storing image data acquired by the image reader (memory unit 30, column 4, lines 37-45);

- a mode memory for storing image forming conditions selected for the acquired image data (being the management table MTI stored in the RAM 126, column 4, line 37-column 5, line 7), the image forming conditions being at least one of number of copies, and magnification (column 3, line 55-column 4, line 4, and column 4, line 37-column 5, line 7);

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a printer for printing an image on paper, based on the image data stored in the image memory, under the image forming conditions stored in the mode memory (column 6, lines 23-40);

a command unit for generating a command of discarding the image data being printed by the printer (see abstract, and column 8, line 49-column 9, line 16),

an image data discarding controller for discarding the image data stored in the image memory when the command of discarding the image data is generated by the command unit (see abstract and column 8, line 49-column 9, line 16), while maintaining the associated image forming conditions stored in the mode memory (column 9, line 17-column 10, line 29),

a print control unit for causing the printer to print another image data newly read by the image reader after the discarding of image data from the image memory under the maintained image forming conditions in the mode memory (column 3, line 50-column 4, line 22, and column 9, line 17- column 10, line 29), and

a job stopping controller for stopping a print operation of a job being printed by the printer, wherein the command unit generates a command of discarding the image data of the job stopped by the job stopping controller (see abstract, and column 8, line 49-column 9, line 16), and

wherein the image data discarding controller discards the image data of the job stopped by the job stopping controller and maintains the image forming conditions of the job (see abstract, and column 8, line 49-column 9, line 16).

Regarding claim 11, Kawabuchi disclose the image forming apparatus discussed above in claim 10, and further teaches of a changing means for changing the maintained image forming conditions (column 3, line 55-column 5, line 7).

Regarding claim 12, Kawabuchi disclose the image forming apparatus discussed above in claim 10, and further teaches that the image reader and the printer operate independently (column 2, line 55-column 3, line 60), and the image memory stores image data for a plurality of jobs (column 4, lines 22-61).

Regarding claim 14, Kawabuchi discloses the image forming apparatus discussed above in claim 12, and further teaches that when the image reader is reading another original, the command unit generates a command of suspending the reading operation, and at the same time, it generates a command of discarding the image data to be printed (see abstract, and Fig. 23, column 9, line 4-column 10, line 29).

Regarding claim 15, Kawabuchi discloses the image forming apparatus discussed above in claim 12, and further teaches that when the image reader is reading another original, the command unit generates a command of discarding the image data to be printed after the reading operation for another original has been completed (column 3, line 50-column 4, line 67, and column 8, line 57-column 9, line 16).

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Regarding claim 16, Kawabuchi discloses an image forming method (see abstract) comprising:

storing image data in an image memory (memory unit 30, column 4, lines 37-45),
storing image forming conditions for the image data in a memory (being the management table MTI stored in the RAM 126, column 4, line 37-column 5, line 7), the image forming conditions being at least one of number of copies, and magnification (column 3, line 55-column 4, line 4, and column 4, line 37-column 5, line 7), priming an image on a paper, based on the image data stored in the image memory, under the image forming conditions stored in the memory (column 6, lines 23-40);

generating a command of discarding the image data whose image is being printed (see abstract, and column 8, line 49-column 9, line 16),

stopping a print operation of the image data being printed and erasing the image data from the image memory in response to the command (see abstract, and column 8, line 49-column 9, line 16), while maintaining the associated image forming conditions in the memory,

acquiring new image data and storing the new image data in the image memory (column 9, line 17-column 10, line 29), and

printing a new image on a paper, based on the new image data acquired after the discarding of image data from the image memory, under the image forming conditions maintained in the mode memory (column 3, line 50-column 4, line 22, and column 9, line 17-column 10, line 29).

Regarding claim 17, Kawabuchi discloses the image forming method discussed above in claim 16, and further teaches of the step of changing the maintained image forming conditions (column 3, line 55-column 4, line 4, and column 4, line 37-column 5, line 7).

Regarding claim 18, Kawabuchi discloses the image forming method discussed above in claim 16, and further teaches of the step of printing image data of another print job on a waiting list after the newly acquired image data has completely been printed (column 3, line 50-column 4, line 22, and column 9, line 17-column 10, line 29).

Regarding claim 20, Kawabuchi discloses the image forming apparatus discussed above in claim 1, and further teaches that the storing image forming conditions for the image data in a memory, the image forming conditions being at least one of number of copies, magnification and paper size (column 3, line 55-column 4, line 4, and column 4, line 37-column 5, line 7).

Regarding claim 21, Kawabuchi discloses the image forming apparatus discussed above in claim 10, and further teaches that the storing image forming conditions for the image data in a memory, the image forming conditions being at least one of number of copies, magnification and paper size (column 3, line 55-column 4, line 4, and column 4, line 37-column 5, line 7).

Regarding claim 22, Kawabuchi discloses the image forming method discussed above in claim 16, and further teaches that the storing image forming conditions for the image data in a memory, the image forming conditions being at least one of number of copies, magnification and paper size (column 3, line 55-column 4, line 4, and column 4, line 37-column 5, line 7).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yixing Qin whose telephone number is (571)272-7381. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Twyler Lamb can be reached on (571)272-7406. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a

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